

The Omen

WET-TEP
ELECTROLYTE
CLEANER
REPAIR
LUBRICANT
LOOK-UP

The Omen

Volume 6, Number 9
December 1, 1995

*** EDITORS ***

Jonathan Land.....Managing Editor
Ben Sanders.....Production Editor
Stephanie Cole.....News Editor
Scott Matz.....Graphics Editor
Emily Belz.....Graphics Editor
Anna Seney....."News" Editor
Josh Brassard.....Section Hate Editor
Amber Cortes.....Music Editor

STAFF

Lauren Ryder.....Nutritional Technician
Some Chick in Dakin.....Printer Abuse
Rivka Magee.....Poophreadong

CONTRIBUTORS

Div III Generator: Lauren Ryder,
Ben Sanders, Stephanie Cole,
Tom Bone, and Kate Washburn

**"The trial told the story of worlds and of
cultures in collision"**

-Luther Campbell

CONTENTS

**Page 3.....An Open
Letter To The Women's
Center**

**Page 5.....The
Hampshire E.M.T. Program**

**Page 6.....Sexism,
Or Just A Dumb Joke?**

**Page 8.....Division
III Title Generator**

(Yes, this is the student apathy / right
after Thanksgiving break issue)

Policy Box!

The Omen accepts from any member of the Hampshire community. We will not edit anything you write, as long as you are willing to be responsible for what you say. Libel, which we personally find amusing and entertaining for countless hours is just not able to be printed in this forum.

Submissions, which includes just about anything involving the Hampshire community in some way (news, opinions, artwork, etc.), are due on Saturday nights at 8:00 to the editor of the section in which you wish to appear, or to Ben Sanders (E-307, box 710), or Jonathan Land (E-311, box 527). We prefer submissions on disk (IBM or HIGH DENSITY Macintosh), although hard copy (on paper, dumbass) is okay as well. Label your stuff well and it will make it back to you with no problem.

So give us your news, commentary, short fiction, comics, satire, poetry, art, bulletins, questions, and anything else you can think of, and your beloved community rag will dish it back 300 times. What better way to be heard?



Open Letter to the Women's Center

Sat. Nov. 18 7:30 A.M.

Dear People Who Are
Representing The Women's Center,

I'm sending this letter as clarification to you. This is obviously concerning the now infamous (thank you) "Uncle Jon's House of Hangers" poster. My point for that was lost way back. My point? The poster wasn't designed to be an anti-abortion campaign (but even if it was, that should not be a bone of contention). It was a response to the fallacious reasoning behind your tombstone campaign. Let me explain:

Everyone here has their cause, for some it's animal rights, or the death penalty, etc. My issue? Logic. One of the things I've seen abused and offended the most here is simple rational thought. I understood that the tombstones were created to represent women who've died in the process of getting an illegal abortion, but writing "this could have been your mom" isn't a realistic way of convincing people of your point. Those tombstones were an obvious appeal to blind emotion, and I find this as unacceptable as you find the government attempting to overturn Roe v. Wade.

You see yourselves fighting for people, I see myself fighting for people's minds.

I created the posters to act as amplified, contorted mirrors, reflecting the emotional aspect of the tombstones. In some aspects it worked, and some it didn't. How did it work? It garnered enough attention to think about the situation. How didn't it work? My point was so obscured that it lead people to think of the wrong situation: abortion rights vs. logical rights.

I don't see my tactics as being any different from yours. Think about it, we both attempted to pry into people's emotions to prove our points, and we both used relatively drastic means of expression. As far as I see it, the only difference is that you weren't aware of the medium you were using from a purely logical perspective, where my intention was to solely represent that (this is another aspect in which it failed).

I'm sorry that through not making my point clear enough I caused pain to the people who couldn't see through my convoluted point. I'm not sorry that I did it however, so no, this letter is not an apology. I will not apologize for my opinions and beliefs as no one should if the truly believe in them, and I wish you

would understand that. I was doing what I felt was the right thing. Although I did the right thing partially wrong, I don't regret it, I just wish I explained myself better from the get-go.

Now for the peripheral points: 1) My Omen articles, 2) Bringing me to the C.R.B., and 3) Your position, and how it's been expressed to me.

1) Article 1 - the sex-offenders meeting/"safe spaces" article - That was my genuine opinion. It wasn't written for inflammatory value. It was my reaction to the meeting, from which I left early because I felt that the conversation was awfully one-sided, and I felt threatened by expressing an alternative point of view. Article 2 - the Girl Scout article - A realization I made in my sleep (I'm on all the time). I thought it was funny, and true. I've actually received a lot of compliments on that article before that issue of The Omen mysteriously disappeared.

2) If you want to bring me to the C.R.B., go for it. I don't know what you are trying to achieve besides having me "pun-

Continued on next page

Women's Center Letter Cont.

Continued from previous page

ished" for my thoughts, but if you have the time, have a blast. I've never closed the lines of communication between myself and the community. I don't believe in anonymity, that's why my name and a phone number were on the poster. All you had to do to get in contact with me is call 2106 and ask for "Jon". There's no catch, I was prepared to take full responsibility for the poster. Fear not, a bunch of people figured out my box, phone, and room numbers to leave me anonymous items and death threats expressing their views. I guess I deserve it for making myself too easy to get a hold of.

3) Please stop speaking for all women on campus. I have many female (as well as male) supporters who might or might not have seen the (tasteless) humorous aspect of the poster, but still defend my right to put them up. The Women's Center isn't synonymous with "all-women, everywhere".

About me (since people think I go to Hampshire to solely piss people off): I've helped fund an abortion of a friend in need (and no, the potential child wasn't mine). I've taken a firm stand against a sex offender, where many peers didn't. I consider myself highly liberal (and pro-choice for the record), and I have a wonderful female companion who I've been seeing for over a year now. I'm Div II, concentrating in math and music. I hold two

jobs on campus. I'm working on my Lemelson project for some obscure sound design concept. I'm working on two classes and two independent studies. Contrary to popular belief, I don't have all that much time on my hands.

[Ed's note: I also forgot to mention that I spend many hours a week doing this here Omen, But enough about me]

Well, if you have any questions feel free to call me at 5236 or write me at 527. I'm not

a relative of Satan (once again, contrary to popular belief), so you don't have to worry about going straight to hell by talking to me, if you choose to do so.

I hope this cleared things up, and I'll either talk to you later, see you at the C.R.B., or bid you adieu right now (it's your call).

Goodbye for now and thanks for listening,

Jonathan Land
(Managing Editor
The Omen)

Elkin Productions Professional Video Taping

*Up to 3 hours coverage
only 159 dollars*

*class parties/reunions/
retirement parties*

*videotaped style and flair
call for details*

Susan Elkin
413-534-7454



The Hampshire E.M.T. Program

DAKIN, F-1—March, 1994—Prostrate with fever, dehydrated with dehydration, and giddy from watching too many "Brady Bunch" re-runs, a Hampshire student could only lie helpless on the couch, a victim to a nasty case of the flu. Concerned friends brought much juice and Anne Rice novels to aid her recovery, but to no avail; the fever raged unabated (103 degrees—try reading Anne Rice when you're hallucinating). And then—a Hampshire EMT was called. The victim was assured that she would not die, and that the little green demons on the wall would soon disappear. Steady fluid intake and vitamin C were advised. Renewed faith in future health was established.

And the EMT disappeared into the night.

For many of us, this is what an EMT encounter consists of—no actual medicinal procedures, but a reliable evaluation of the situation at hand. When in doubt, a trip to UMI is advised. In a greater crisis, the speedy arrival of an EMT can lend rational thought and a calming influence to a disconcerting event. The presence of the Hampshire EMT program assures Hampshire students of swift medical attention,

and reliable advice when a course of action is uncertain.

Officially in its fifteenth year of existence, the EMT program is a valuable asset to the Hampshire community. This Jan Term, a course in EMT training and certification will encourage more participation in the roughly ten-member group. Grants of financial assistance for the training fee are available; to apply, students must submit a one-page explanation of their motivations and expectations regarding their desire to acquire EMT certification. This year, in a "radical change of policy," recipients of this grant are not required to run with the program the subsequent semester. One must only demonstrate a desire to help others and make productive use of the training they receive.

Hampshire EMT Sajel Patel (F94) commented on some of the benefits of EMT training and practice. "You learn to handle a stressful situation, to think logically in the midst of an adrenaline rush." She also commented that "people learn to trust you"—a trust that is particularly gratifying when garnered from a sick, and sometime very upset, patient. And, while expressing a desire not to sound cheesy, she added,

"You have a sense of being part of the community...helping people, and leaving a patient a lot calmer," were also part of the rewards.

A flip side to these benefits can sometimes be the confidentiality that plays a large part in the EMT's role as medical counselor and first-response person. EMTs are often the first people aware of the exigent circumstances in a medical crisis; in a community as small as Hampshire, people will sometimes ask an EMT to indulge curiosity about this or that student. Patel mentioned that sometimes people feel hurt at her not informing them of a medical situation involving a mutual friend; the instances are rare, but leave her trying to articulate the confidentiality she owes to her patients. "I know they will eventually find things out from other sources," she explained, feeling no conflict of interest in the EMT role and her social role on campus.

Brenna Slater (F92), coordinator of the program, described other problematic aspects—the patient reluctant to accept EMT assistance, and Health Services' occasional questioning of EMT

Continued on page 7.

SECTION HATE

Sexism, or Just a Dumb Joke?

Section Hate - 27 November 1995

Okay, kids. Since many people insist on being idiotic, let's jump, yet again, into the First Amendment fray, shall we?

As many of you already know, there's been a bit of a stink over yonder at Cornell University concerning the freedom of speech. The incident involves the Internet, a rather derogatory (yet, at times, very funny) Top Ten kind of list about women, and four morons - freshmen at Cornell - who call themselves "The Players." What happened, for those of you who aren't aware of this particular bit of lunacy, is this: these four guys in their first year at Cornell decided to have some fun on the Internet, instead of participating in their weekly circle-jerk session. They came up with this little ditty of a list called "Top 75 Reasons Why Women Shouldn't have the Freedom of Speech." As the title suggests, this list was pretty misogynistic, and at times just downright offensive. An example (and these numbers are just made up off the top of my head, and are not necessarily where these selections appear in the list):

38. If she can't speak, she

can't cry rape.

39. Of course, if she can't speak, she can't say no.

Zoiks, Scoob. Like, let's get outta here. Like now.

It wasn't all that blatantly offensive, and, as I said before, some of it was quite humorous - the kind of humorous where you can't believe you're laughing but can't seem to stop. Now, I know that some of you are most likely wondering just how the hell I happened to have read this list. Well, it seems that, while this list was originally intended by The Players to be an exclusively Cornell-bound thing, the anarchic laws of the Internet (how's that for a paradox?) made that a statistical impossibility. What I think happened was that one of the first recipients of this list thought it pretty funny, so this person forwarded it to several of his/her friends, who in turn forwarded it to several of their friends - I'm thinking that, by this time, the list has escaped the confines of the Cornell system - who, each in turn, forwarded it... you see the exponential expansion. Somewhere in there, someone received this list, read it, got completely pissed off, forwarded it to other, like-minded individuals, etcetera, etcetera, until it some-

how found its way onto the Indigo Girls newsgroup/mailling list, and... well, I don't want to make any implications about Indigo Girls fans (considering that I'm one myself), but these are not the people who would find this list even remotely funny. To make an incredibly long-winded hypothesis short, this stupid list bounced its way along the infobahn, taking every off-ramp it could find, and had soon spread all over the country. I know of several Hampshire students (including myself) who found it in their INBOX.

Needless to say - but I'm going to say it anyway - a huge ruckus ensued. Apparently, the sysadmin at Cornell was inundated with email from across the country about the list. Angry, threatening email. Email demanding for these boys' heads on a silver platter. And the like. Cornell was starting to feel the pinch. An official reaction was called for, and pretty damn quick, or else they were going to look like fools or - ever a threat in our increasingly-litigious society - get their asses sued into oblivion. So, they acted. The Players' Internet privileges were revoked for an unspecified amount of time

Continued on next page.

Opinions Cannot be Dictated

Continued from previous page

and all four were expelled from Cornell University. There are also, if I'm not mistaken, some lawsuits pending against the boys for sexual harassment.

Zoiks, Scoob. Like, let's get outta here. Like now.

Um... what the fuck? Has everyone in this motherfucking country completely forgotten the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America? You know, that document that is the basis for all governance in our blessed little nation. Freedom of *speech*, people. It's a pretty clear concept. Nowhere does it say "Freedom of *some* speech" or "Freedom of speech, except for everything we find offensive or morally degrading or whatever we just don't fucking like." Call me a Constitutional absolutist, but I firmly believe that freedom of speech means freedom of *all* speech. Everyone has the right to say whatever the hell they want, be it imbecilic, racist, hateful, intelligent, satirical, or whatever. Sometimes that just sucks, but that is the price we pay for living in a (supposedly) free society.

It infuriates me that Cornell reacted the way they did. Yeah, sure, those four boys were gargantuan idiots, but you do not kick someone out of an institution for the words they say and/or write. Words, you see, are fairly impossible to be governed, because, nine times out of ten, they are vocalizations of opinions, and

opinions cannot be dictated. As much as some people would like that not to be true (the Christian Right springs immediately to mind, but extreme liberals like the ACLU are also guilty of this), it is. And what I have to say to these people is this: suck and deal.

I sincerely hope that those four boys sue the pants off of Cornell University for a violation of constitutional rights. The case would probably reach the Supreme Court. Granted, the Court is annoyingly political at times, but there are some fair Justices on the bench - Souter and O'Connor, for example. But Cornell really doesn't have a right to do what they have done - and I don't give a shit about the they're-a-private-institution-so-they-

can-do-whatever-the-hell-they-want argument, because it just doesn't fly in this case. Not for me. It shouldn't for you either... but I can't dictate your opinions, now, can I?

Well, kids, that's it for this week's spin on the Section Hate Merry-Go-Round. Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Hate mail? Send 'em my way, sizzlechest: box 21 or jobF92@hamp. Or, you could write for The Omen - a bastion of free speech if ever there was one.

So, till next we meet, folks, remember: keep your feet on the ground, but keep reaching for the stars.

Just plain thppth.

Josh Brassard
Section Hate Editor

E.M.T. Continued

Continued from page 5.

decisions involving ambulance transport. Overall, however, she feels the EMTs are "a very welcome service." Usually, those who scoff EMT advice are needful of it. Derrik Elmes was described as a "helpful" advisor, never directly interfering in EMT policies, and supportive of the decisions that Health Services will sometimes criticize. And while Slater admitted that being an EMT is a big responsibility, she maintained that the student-run program is very worthwhile.

be certified, dedicated, and able to get across campus in an extraordinarily short amount of time. The position allows you to interact with Hampshire in a unique and invaluable way.

The EMT office is in the basement of Dakin. If you would like to get into it, or to just be prepared for the next time your mom swallows a chicken bone, sign up for their Jan Term course. Submit grant requests to Box 1240 by December 1st.

To be an EMT, one must

Stephanie Cole
News Editor

Division III Title Generator

Directions: If you can't figure it out, you have bigger problems than your Division III to worry about

| I | II | III | IV | V | VI |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|
| A survey of | Early | Hegalian | Philosophy | : | In the Third World |
| A discourse in | Pre- | Socialist | Feminism | - | A Performance Piece |
| Rethinking | Post- | Latino | Communism | ~ | My Story |
| Economics of | Symbolic | Modern | Origami | / | Fact or Fiction? |
| Reconstructing | French | Libertarian | Recycling | ~ | You Decide |
| Deconstructing | Pro-Choice | Socratic | Homosexuality | ... | And the Working Dog |
| A Cornucopia of | The New Age of | Proletariat | Suicide | :) | Through an Ecofeminist Lens |
| A fresh approach to | Community-Based | Mongolian | Education | | A Novel |
| Ecological Theories behind | Democratic | Clinical | Architecture | | On the Internet |
| Top Rope Climbing and | All Natural | Industrial | Imperialism | | And the Works of Kevin Bacon |
| Gender Issues in | My So-Called | Colonial | Pornography | | And the New Deal |
| A Critical Look at | Developmental | Buddhist | Nazism | | On MTV |
| Dissecting | Genetic | Popular | Forestry | | On a Molecular Level |
| Besmirching | Lactating | Gothic | Woodworking | | In my Family Tree |
| Reconsidering | Non-Animal Tested | Dental | Mythology | | And the Big Bang |
| First Amendment Issues in | Medicinal | Nuclear | Frisbees | | A Documentary Film |
| Evolution of | Land-Locked | Vietnamese | Theater | | In Southeast Asia |
| Analyzing | Mathematical | Adult Attention Deficit | Pagans | | Friend or Foe? |
| The Death of | Experimental | Gregorian | Culture | | Wha'tchew talkin' about Willis? |
| The Effect of | Adjudicating | Menstrual | Technology | | Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka |
| Getting in Touch With | International | Kosher | Agriculture | | It's Not Just For Breakfast Anymore |
| Reflections on | Recombinant | Ontological | Drug Use | | Who thought that was a good idea? |
| A Potpourri o' | Theoretical | Recapitulating | Poetry | | Out Damn Spot! |
| Aroma Therapy From | Medieval | Prenatal | Birth Control | | Or Something Like |
| Traditional Folk Dances of | Psychological | Telekinetic | Racism | | Come and Get It! |
| Conspiracies in | Spicy | Zionist | Eating Disorders | | Over the Interval Negative Pi to Pi. |
| Jesus imagery in | Synthetic | Aborigine | Vegetarianism | | |
| Working With | Pre-Columbian | Simian | Photography | | |
| Erotic Stories Of | Aquatic | Inner City | | | |
| Pettifoggery in | Homeless | | | | |
| Recent Advances in | Experiential | | | | |
| | Patriarchal | | | | |